

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 27, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 24-28, 32, and 34-45 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. New claim 47 has been added. No new matter has been added and no new issues are raised which require further consideration or search. Therefore, claims 24-45 and 47 are currently pending in the application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 24-34, 36-41, and 43-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tognazzini (EP 0810803 A2). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons which follow.

Claim 24, upon which claims 25-44 are dependent, recites a telecommunications system including a telecommunication network, a first station, and a plurality of second stations. The first station is configured to request a connection with at least one of the plurality of second stations. The connection request includes a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one second station. The telecommunication network includes at least one store configured to store location information for at least some of the second stations and a selection unit configured to select at least one of the second stations for connection in dependence on the location information stored in the store. The telecommunications

system is further configured to connect the first station to the at least one second station selected by the selection unit.

Claim 45 recites a method for use in a telecommunications system including a telecommunication network, a first station and a plurality of second stations. The method includes defining at the first station a location criteria to be satisfied by at least one second station, and requesting a connection with at least one second station satisfying said criteria. The method also includes determining at the telecommunication network which of the second stations satisfy the criteria, and establishing a connection between the first station and the at least one second station satisfying the location criteria. The method further includes selecting, at the telecommunication network, at least one of the second stations satisfying the criteria in dependence on stored location information, and connecting the first station to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication network.

Therefore, the present invention is directed, in part, to connecting a user of a first station to one of the second stations based on location information for the second stations. The user of the first station has no information about where the second mobile stations are positioned. Furthermore, the communication network makes the decision regarding which second station should be connected to the first station based on stored location information. For instance, the present invention may be applied in a situation where customers need to call a company or a service, such as a taxi or physician. In such a situation, it would not necessarily be practical to display all of the information regarding

the position of doctors or taxis to a user of the first station. Additionally, it may not be desirable for the taxi company or physician to allow the user of the first station to decide which second station is to be contacted (Specification, page 1, line 15 – page 2, line 28).

Consequently, one of the advantages provided by the claimed invention is that the location information for the second stations does not need to be displayed to the user of the first station. Similarly, the criteria for selecting which of the second stations is connected to the first station can be determined by the telecommunications system, rather than by the user of the first station. Furthermore, the telecommunications system may determine the second station that is to be connected to the first station based on criteria not available to the user of the first station.

As will be discussed below, Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features and advantages discussed above.

Tognazzini discloses an apparatus and method for establishing communications between a calling station and one or more called stations based on information stored in a database. A receiver receives a communication request including a query specifying at least one criterion. A comparator compares information stored in the database with the criterion, and a transmitter responds to the communications request when the information in the database satisfies the criterion.

Applicants respectfully assert that Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. For example, Tognazzini does not disclose or suggest that “the telecommunications system is further configured to connect the first station to

the at least one second station selected by the selection unit,” as recited in claim 24. Similarly, Tognazzini does not disclose or suggest “connecting the first station to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication network,” as recited in claim 45.

Embodiments of the claimed invention provide that the telecommunication network itself selects at least one of the second stations for connection to the first station. More particularly, according to embodiments of the present invention, the first station requests a connection with at least one second station satisfying a location criteria and the telecommunications network then selects which of the second stations is to be connected depending upon stored location information from the second station. The telecommunications system then connects the first station to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication network.

Tognazzini, on the other hand, does not disclose connecting the first station to the second station selected by the telecommunication system. Rather, Tognazzini only discloses connecting to a station that is selected by the user. Specifically, Tognazzini discloses selecting a number of possible second stations for display as icons on a screen. A user then selects at least one of the displayed stations for connection, and the telecommunication system connects the first station to the second station selected by the user. Therefore, Tognazzini discloses connecting the first station to a second station chosen by the user. Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest connecting the first station to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication system.

Consequently, Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest that “the telecommunications system is further configured to connect the first station to the at least one second station selected by the selection unit,” as recited in claim 24, or “connecting the first station to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication network,” as recited in claim 45. As such, Tognazzini fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claims 1 and 45.

Claims 25-44 are dependent upon claim 24. Thus, claims 25-44 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claim 24, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tognazzini in view of Nojima (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,080). The Office Action took the position that Tognazzini discloses all of the elements of claim 35, with the exception of determining unit arranged to define an order in which connections to second stations satisfying the location criteria are to be attempted. The Office Action then relies upon Nojima as allegedly curing this deficiency in Tognazzini. The above rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Tognazzini is discussed above. Nojima discloses an emergency calling system. When it is necessary to make an emergency call about a vehicle station, a Mayday center performs an emergency call to a plurality of emergency contacts in an order of priority according to the vehicle station’s present location. The order of priority of the emergency contact addresses is determined according to vehicle station location.

Applicants note that claim 35 is dependent upon claim 24. Additionally, Nojima fails to cure the deficiencies in Tognazzini discussed above with respect to claim 24, as Nojima also fails to disclose connecting the first station to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication system. Therefore, the combination of Tognazzini and Nojima fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 35. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 35 should be allowed for at least its dependence upon claim 24, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tognazzini in view of Tayloe (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,418). The Office Action took the position that Tognazzini discloses all of the elements of claim 42, with the exception of making the call at a subsequent time when the second station satisfies the location criteria. The Office Action then relies upon Tayloe to cure this deficiency in Tognazzini. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Tognazzini is discussed above. Tayloe discloses a position dependent call connection method and apparatus in a radio communication system. Tayloe further discloses calculating opportunity times when there is a high likelihood of establishing a link between a target communication unit and a satellite. These opportunities are calculated by predicting the satellite's future positions with respect to an optimal call initiation area. The opportunity times are sent to the source communication unit so that the user knows when to attempt another call.

Applicants note that claim 42 is dependent upon claim 24. Additionally, Tayloe fails to cure the deficiencies in Tognazzini discussed above with respect to claim 24, as Tayloe also fails to disclose connecting the first station to the at least one second station selected by the telecommunication system. Therefore, the combination of Tognazzini and Tayloe fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 42. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 42 should be allowed for at least its dependence upon claim 24, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that Tognazzini, Nojima, and Tayloe, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest critical and important elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 24-45 and 47 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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